



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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MORE LAND APPROVED FOR 12 WILDLIFE REFUGES

Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay today announced that the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, of which he is chairman, has approved the purchase of 9,185 acres and the lease of 1,783 acres of land in 12 national wildlife refuge units administered by the Fish and Wildlife Service in 10 States.

A new refuge, designated as the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge in Saginaw County, Michigan, was authorized by Commission action and the initial purchase of 2,246 acres of land for this unit was approved. This refuge, which has the support of the Michigan United Conservation Clubs and the Saginaw Valley Regional Commission, will adjoin a unit which the State of Michigan is purchasing for management as a public shooting area.

Other approvals covered additions to the Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge in Spokane County, Washington; the Columbia National Wildlife Refuge in Adams and Grant Counties, Washington; the Rice Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Aitkin County, Minnesota; the Lostwood National Wildlife Refuge in Burke County, North Dakota; the Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge in Rio Grande County, Colorado; the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge in Cameron County, Texas; the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Harney County, Oregon; the Sanibel National Wildlife Refuge in Lee County, Florida; the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Management Area in Palm Beach County, Florida; the Big Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Mississippi County, Arkansas; and the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge in Imperial County, California.

The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission consists of Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay, Chairman; Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson; Secretary of Commerce Sinclair Weeks; Senator A. Willis Robertson, of Virginia; Senator John W. Bricker, of Ohio; Representative Frank M. Karsten, of Missouri; Representative August H. Andresen, of Minnesota; and Arthur A. Riemer, Chief, Branch of Lands, Fish and Wildlife Service, who serves as Commission secretary.

The Commission operates in accordance with the Migratory Bird Conservation Act of 1929 which authorized appropriations for the establishment of a Federal system of refuges of migratory birds. Appropriations under this Act, together with funds from the sale of Federal duck stamps and from other sources have resulted in the most extensive bird refuge system in the world.

Refuges of all kinds administered by the Fish and Wildlife Service now total 272, containing some 17,409,968 acres. Of this total, 254 (9,436,549 acres) are in the United States and 18 (7,973,419 acres) in Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico. The system includes 202 refuges for waterfowl; 44 for colonial nongame birds; 16 for big game; and 9 for migratory birds other than waterfowl and miscellaneous forms of wildlife.

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